



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: "Growing in God's Grace" - Ephesians 3:1-13

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

If you found buried treasure in your backyard, what would you do first? Why? How would finding this impact your life?

QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Dave shared the Law of Familiarity: All things of value will, with the passage of enough time, be taken for granted.

1. How have you seen this is to be true in everyday life?
2. In what way is this a real danger to us growing in Christlikeness?
3. Read together Revelation 2:2-5—In what way did Paul's concerns for the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 3:1-13 become a real problem for them in the book of Revelation?
4. How is this instructive to us? To our church family? What can we do to keep our faith "fresh"?
5. Dave used the unique geography of Sequoia trees (narrow band west of Sierras, unique environment and grow best in groves) to illustrate that we must be rooted in the right soil/story to grow and become like Jesus.

From the message, what story do we need to plant ourselves in? What false stories do we plant ourselves in that jeopardizes growing in God's grace?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ephesians 1:3-14]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

To what mystery did Paul refer? (3:2-3)

How did Paul receive insight into the mystery of Christ? (3:4-5)

Who revealed the mystery of Christ to Paul and when was it disclosed? (3:5)

What was God's plan? (3:6)

What task was Paul given? (3:7)

How did Paul see himself in light of being given this responsibility? (3:8)

What “vehicle” is God’s wisdom communicated? (3:10)

In light of God’s work, how may believers approach Him? (3:11-12)

Why were Paul’s trials something the Ephesians should feel honored? (3:13)

When Paul prayed, what posture did he assume? (3:14)

To whom is God the Father? (3:14-15)

Through whom would the Ephesians be empowered? (3:16)

How would Christ dwell in the believers’ hearts? (3:17)

Why did Paul want the Ephesians to be rooted in God’s love? (3:17-19)

What did Paul want the Ephesians to grasp, take hold of? (3:18)

What does the love of Christ surpass? (3:19)

How did Paul close his prayer? (3:20-21)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

If Paul was your prayer partner, how might he encourage you to pray, to see yourself in light of God’s grace and to grow spiritually?

In what way do you need to become firmly rooted in love?

How have you allowed God to become too small in your life (i.e.. too easy to explain)?

Of the four directions that we grow in God’s grace (Down, Up, Within and Out) which one needs some ‘tuning up’ for you?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?